

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BERN 448 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 03 JAN

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TAGS: SNAR, SZ

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL
PRESENTATION

REF: A) BERN A-253, AUGUST 1974 B) STATE 12151

(A) SUMMARY: THE DRUG PROBLEM IN SWITZERLAND INCREASED
SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1974. THERE
WAS A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN HARD DRUG USE. ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITIES HAVE INTENSIFIED. THERE IS NO INDICATION,
HOWEVER, THAT THE PEAK IN DRUG USE HAS BEEN REACHED.

AS REPORTED IN REFAIRGRAM THE SWISS FEDERAL POLICE
AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM MAINTAIN
CLOSE RELATIONS WITH DEA PARIS AND PREFER NOT TO MAINTAIN
TWO CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE USG. THIS REPORT WAS
PREPARED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING, THEREFORE, THAT CERTAIN
INFO CONCERNING SWITZERLAND MAY BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE
FROM DEA.

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B) ABUSE: THE PATTERN OF DRUG CONSUMPTION IN SWITZERLAND HAS SHIFTED. PREVIOUSLY ALMOST ALL DRUG USE INVOLVED MARIJUANA OR HASHISH. THOSE DRUGS CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST WIDELY USED BUT THE INCIDENCE OF HARD DRUG CONSUMPTION IS INCREASING. AN INDICATION OF THE INCREASE IS THE NUMBER OF DRUG-RELATED DEATHS. IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS OF 1974 FOUR PERSONS IN BERN ALONE DIED AS A RESULT OF HARD DRUG ABUSE.

THE TYPICAL DRUG USER IS SAID TO BE YOUNG AND MALE. DRUG EXPERIMENTATION (E.G. CANABIS) OFTEN BEGINS WHEN A YOUNG MAN LEAVES SCHOOL (ONLY 10 PERCENT OF SWISS STUDENTS ENTER A UNIVERSITY) AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS MONEY AND REDUCED SCHOOL AND FAMILY SUPERVISION. THIS INCREASE IN DRUG USE BY AN OTHERWISE LAW-ABIDING GROUP PLUS THE INCREASE IN HARD DRUG USE BY A SMALL MINORITY OF DRUG USERS, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A DE FACTO POLICE DECISION TO IGNORE AMATEUR CANABIS DEALERS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS. THE 10 MAN NARCOTICS SQUAD IN BASEL IS SO OVERWORKED ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND MAJOR TRAFFICKERS THAT A NARCOTICS AGENT TOLD A VISITING EMBASSY OFFICER THAT WITHIN 100 YARDS OF THE NARCOTICS SQUAD'S OFFICES ONE COULD BUY HASHISH OR MARIJUANA. THE AGENT ADDED RHETORICALLY "WHERE COULD WE PUT THEM EVEN IF WE ARRESTED THEM?"

C) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING: THERE IS NO OPIUM, COCA OR CANABIS (EXCEPT AT THE SMALLEST LEVEL) PRODUCTION IN SWITZERLAND.

D) TRAFFICKING TRENDS: THE SWISS NARCOTICS POLICE TEND TO VIEW AMSTERDAM AS THE EUROPEAN CENTER OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC. THE LARGEST SINGLE INTERCEPTION OF HEROIN IN SWITZERLAND, 4,100 GRAMS OF BROWN SUGAR HEROIN, WAS MADE AT THE GENEVA AIRPORT ON DEC 5, 1974 IN THE LUGGAGE OF 3 MALAYSIANS WHO WERE TRANSPORTING THE HEROIN FROM MALAYSIA TO AMSTERDAM BY AIR. NO INFO IS AVAILABLE AS TO FURTHER DETAILS OF THE OPERATION, BUT THE 3 MALAYSIANS REMAIN IN PRISON UNDER INVESTIGATIVE ARREST. MOST OF THE HASHISH IMPORTED INTO SWITZERLAND APPEARS TO ORIGINATE IN MOROCCO.

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E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION: SWITZERLAND IS A MEMBER OF INTERPOL, THE BRUSSELS-BASED COUNCIL ON CUSTOMS COOPERATION AND UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. IT IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED SWITZERLAND IS A VERY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WHICH

WOULD RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY THE USG TO INFLUENCE ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE SWISS CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION DID, HOWEVER, SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT MID-MANAGEMENT COURSE III GIVEN BY THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON. THE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE TWO PARTICIPANTS WAS ENTHUSIASTIC. THE SWISS CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION HAS JUST BEGUN A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS. THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION STATES THAT IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE COURSE IT HAS EVER GIVEN.

G) ENFORCEMENT: SINCE ALMOST ALL DRUGS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO SWITZERLAND (AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF OPIUM DOWN STREAM REFINING), THE FOCUS OF THE SWISS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IS ON THE CUSTOMS OPERATION. SWISS CUSTOMS REPORTED 387 CASES OF DRUG INTERCEPTION COMPARED TO 249 IN 1973. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE CASES INVOLVED AUTO AND TRUCK MOVEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS AMOUNTS OF DRUGS SEIZED FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1974 AND 1973. ALL QUANTITIES ARE METRIC GRAMS:

	1974	1973
CANABIS	169,276.6	485,953
(OF WHICH LIQUID)	803	4,002
OPIUM	887.9	1,615.3
MORPHINE	486	53.5
HEROIN	4,704.1	32
COCAIN	2,042	103

COURT SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE VARIED GREATLY FROM THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD.

H. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION: THIS CATEGORY UNCLASSIFIED

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RESISTS GENERALIZATION DUE TO THE DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN SWITZERLAND. A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS ARE IN EXISTENCE BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CHARACTERIZE THEM. THERE ARE NO US FINANCED PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND IN THIS AREA.
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